



PRESS RELEASE

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TWO ARRESTED IN FRAUDULENT IDENTITY THEFT CONSPIRACY

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, announced today that a federal grand jury at Phoenix, Arizona, returned a 32 count indictment against Ernesto Lyle Galvez, 27, and Shakiya Sian Hairston, aka Shakiya Sian Galvez, both of Phoenix, Arizona.

The indictment alleges that the defendants were involved in a scheme in which they would obtain credit cards and credit accounts in the names of others. The defendants would often use the names and social security numbers of recently deceased individuals which they obtained from various websites on the internet. In addition to credit cards, the defendants would receive blank checks to use as debits on the newly opened accounts which the defendant cashed or used to purchase items. The defendants would also obtain credit reports in their own names and in the names in which they had obtained credit accounts. Using these credit reports, the defendants would keep track of the accounts and obtain additional information about individuals in order to secure further credit.

Galvez and Hairston were arrested today after a search warrant was executed at their residence located at 4711 N. 92nd Drive, Phoenix, Arizona. The two will appear before a United States Magistrate Judge today or tomorrow for an initial appearance.

(MORE)

The federal indictment charges Galvez and Hairston with violating Title 18 of the United States Code, Sections 371 (Conspiracy), 1343 (Wire Fraud), 1341 (Mail Fraud) and 1029(a)(5) (Credit Card/Access Device Fraud).

A conviction for violations of 18 U.S.C. Sections 371, 1343 and 1341 carry a maximum penalty of 5 years, a \$250,000 fine or both. A conviction for a violation of 18 U.S.C. Section 1029(a)(5) carries a maximum penalty of 15 years, a \$250,000 or both.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by the United States Secret Service, United States Postal Inspection Service and the Social Security Administration.

The prosecution is being handled by Ann Scheel and Dan Drake, Assistant United States Attorneys, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-02-007-PHX
RELEASE NUMBER: 2002-005

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